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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 01546 240730Z

15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /102 W
---------- 084582
R 240609Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2650
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. QQYTW N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PINT, UR
SUBJ: LENINGRAD GAS SHORTAGE

REF: LENINGRAD 1507

1. SUMMARY: LENINGRAD GAS SHORTAGE CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

2. A NUMBER OF SOURCES CONFIRMED THAT LOCAL DRIVERS OF PRIVATE VEHICLES ARE NOT BEING SERVICED AT A-95 OCTANE PUMPS IN LENINGRAD AREA. A-95 OCTANE WAS AVAILABLE TO DIPLOMATIC CARS ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 19, BUT CONGEN OFFICER WAS TOLD MORNING SEPT 23 THAT NO A-95 OCTANE WAS THEN AVAILABLE AT ALL. CASHIER SAID THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT A-95 MIGHT BE AVAILABLE DURING AFTERNOON BUT SHE ADMITTED SHE WAS NOT CERTAIN IF OR WHEN IT WOULD BE DELIVERED.

3. CONGEN OFFICER (SVAT) WAS TOLD EARLIER THIS WEEK BY LENINGRAD DRIVER THAT A-93 OCTANE GASOLINE ALSO WOULD SOON BE IN SHORT SUPPLY. ON SEPT 23 SAME OFFICER WAS APPROACHED AT GAS PUMP BY TWO SOVIET CITIZENS WHO ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BUY FIVE GALLON JERRY CANS OF
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PAGE 02 LENING 01546 240730Z

GASOLINE FOR THEM. THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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REFUSED AT OTHER STATIONS AS WELL AS AT STATION AT
WHICH CONGEN OFFICER OBTAINING GAS. DURING THESE CON-
VERSATIONS PLAIN CLOTHES "ATTENDANTS", (NOW AT STATIONS
IN LIEU OF MILITIA) WERE TELLING OTHER ARRIVING
MOTORISTS TO LEAVE AREA SINCE LINE WAS ALREADY TOO LONG.

4. ON SEPT. 23 AT ANOTHER STATION ON VASILYEVSVIY ISLAND
CONGEN OFFICER OBSERVED ONLY TRUCKS AND BUSES BEING
SERVICED. ONE OFFICIAL VEHICLE (SOVIET GOVT. VOLGA)
WAS WAVED ON WITHOUT EXPLANATION. AT STATIONS NEAR
SMOLNYY ALL PUMPS WERE CLOSED.

5. COMMENT: ONE LENINGRAD DRIVER REFERRED TO CURRENT
GASOLINE SHORTAGE AS "CRISIS" WHICH HE SAID WAS NOT CAUSED
BY LACK OF TRUCKS BUT BY "SHORTAGE OF HIGH GRADE GASOLINE."
ANOTHER SOURCE ATTRIBUTED SHORTAGE TO FAILURE OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES TO FACTOR NEEDS OF INCREASING NUMBER OF
PRIVATE VEHICLES IN LENINGRAD AREA INTO GASOLINE DISTRI-
BUTION PLAN WHICH IS NOW BECOMING ACUTE AS END OF
THIRD QUARTER APPROACHES. HEAVY USE OF LENINGRAD TRUCKS IN
CURRENT HARVEST (ESTIMATED BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND FIRST SECRETARY
OF LENINGRAD, ROMANOV IN RECENT SPEECH AT 5,000) MAY ALSO
CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL PROBLEM.
NEUBERT

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Draft Date: 24 SEP 1976
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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